

THIRD ANNUAL Jewish Women's Conference

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The Third Annual Jewish Women's Conference of Southern California

held at UCLA's Covel Commons, was bigger and better than ever. With Keynote Speakers Sandra Fluke and Dr. Cheryl Saban taking the stage, the day could not have been more inspiring. The conference started with Sandra Fluke's opening on "Our Call to Action" and her example of how

domestic workers in California, most of whom have very little time or financial resources, were able to get the Domestic Worker Bill of Rights passed this year through perseverance and sitting on a hot, crowded bus on a trip to Sacramento to lobby our State Legislators.



Sandra Fluke

Dr. Cheryl Saban



2013 JWC Co-Chairs Marilyn Szatmary and Cipra Nemeth with 2012 JWC Chair Amy Straus



Pictured l to r: Peggy Schwartz, Linda Sewerbridges, Nancy Scher, Susan Isaacs, Talma Zelitzki

Following Fluke's comments, the attendees went into breakout sessions, choosing between **Knowing the Issues: Women and California Policy** with NBC4 Anchor and Reporter Colleen Williams, as the Moderator. **In the Hot Seat: Women in Politics in Israel, Jewish Women's Organizations: Forging Ahead in the 21st Century, Protecting Our Most Precious Asset: Women's Health**, and the film screening of "As Seen Through These Eyes" followed by a Q & A with filmmaker Hilary Helstein.

During lunch, Author and Advocate Dr. Cheryl Saban shared her compelling, personal story of overcoming sexual assault and how building spheres of empowerment motivates her every day.

The afternoon workshop rooms were packed with people as facilitators led trainings on effective communication skills, advocacy tools, financial literacy and planning, and spirituality.

With over 250 attendees, 33 speakers, and sponsors filling the entire ballroom, a boutique with beautiful products on sale, educational panels, empowering workshops, inspiring keynote speakers, and a fun-filled networking reception, the 3rd Annual Jewish Women's Conference was a huge success. We thank the JWC Steering Committee for all their hard work with a very big and special thank you to JWC Co-Chairs Cipra Nemeth and Marilyn Szatmary. We look forward to seeing you next year!



Panel In the Hot Seat: Women in Politics in Israel from l to r: Maura Kleeman Resnick, Naomi Paiss and Ifat Zamir

Shelli's President's Message



Since becoming President in June 2013 I have had the opportunity to participate in several committee meetings. From my past volunteer experience with Women Helping Women and being on the Board of Directors,

I already knew NCJW/LA has a group of remarkably dedicated people, but seeing all the smarts and hard work up close and personal was more than a blast—it was a blessing. Our organization's success is rooted in the generosity of spirit and total dedication of our volunteers. I'd like to share a success story that I told at our Volunteer Open House in August of a woman I helped on Talkline.

A woman on a bus was complaining to a total stranger about how she was out of work for more than a year and finally had the chance to interview for a position, but her only dress was frayed and tattered. She barely had enough money for food, let alone a new dress. This stranger on a bus smiled, stood up, did a turn, and asked "how do you like my dress?" The woman liked it a lot. "Call the Women Helping Women Talkline," she said, "ask about their 'clothing vouchers'". The woman made the call and learned about the National Council of Jewish Women Thrift Stores and how NCJW/LA gives clothing vouchers to women in need. She went to the store and found exactly what she wanted—a beautiful red suit. I know it fit her perfectly because she called the hotline back to say so. Even better than the dress, she got the job.

This is just one example of the impact NCJW/LA makes in our community. The work we do has a positive impact on so many people's lives. I am very excited to be an active member of the National Council of Jewish Women/Los Angeles. You too can join us.

Shelli

Shelli Dodell
Board President

women helping women

Community Counseling and Support Services

The winter months bring many opportunities to give gifts and spend time with those we love. At Women Helping Women, winter is also a time to come together as a community, spread our own good fortune, and share the spirit of the season with those in need:

November–December: We are collecting unused toiletries and other gift or self-care items for our **Holiday Gift Program**. Please help by collecting items from your family and friends, soliciting donations from local stores, purchasing something from the **WHW Amazon Wish List**, or making a cash donation to our **Emergency Survival Fund**. For more information, contact: Chloe@ncjwla.org.

December 8–16: Give your time by helping to assemble gift baskets, volunteering at the **Annual Clothing Giveaway** on Sunday December 8, or staffing the **WHW Holiday Gift Store** December 11–16. Contact: Rachel@ncjwla.org.

December 31: And if you want to give your heart and share your compassion all year round, consider becoming a Talkline Volunteer. Applications for the 2014 **Talkline Training** are due December 31, and the training begins February 12. For more information or to request an application, contact Chloe@ncjwla.org.

Give the gift of theater: tickets go on sale November 15 for **WHW's Emergency Survival Fund Theater Event**, "Closely Related Keys," on March 20, 2014.

However you choose to give, your own soul will be all the richer for it.

membership & outreach

Member News and Events

Women Making a Difference

Mitzvot & Merlot: Women Making a Difference program is growing. With four very active groups in Los Angeles, Agoura Hills, Encino/Tarzana, and the Santa Clarita Valley—over 100 women are dedicated to community service projects. Enjoying wine and light refreshments at a volunteer's home and producing items for partner organizations. Call or write Carrie Jacoves, 323-852-8512 or carrie@ncjwla.org, to find a group for you!

New Art Exhibit

We are excited to announce the next art exhibit. "A Dialogue with Colors" by Ann Krasner. Ann's art relates to the viewer on a personal level of the most precious life experiences and on a social level of such important issues as survival, motherhood, unity, and peace. Ann Krasner has developed her own style of grotesque painting with the elements of caricature in her attempt to depict human comedy. In her artist statement Krasner says that the main objective of her work is "to help people find joy and harmony, even if it is just for a moment while looking at the paintings."

Opening Reception: Sunday, November 24 from 3–5pm

women helping children

Art & Literacy Programs for Youth

With the start of school in the rearview mirror, Women Helping Children programs are in full gear across the city. In our Art programs, students have been studying the art history of Ukraine and Mexico as well as learning about contemporary painting. Our homework club program welcomed new and returning students this year to work with our volunteers on Tuesdays and Thursdays on homework comprehension and completion. We are also in the process of discovering new and exciting authors and children's books to add to our **Light Up A Library** partners collections.

As we move forward into Winter, we will be participating in the San Fernando Valley Rescue Mission's Great Thanksgiving Feast on November 26. We have worked with Isaac Sage who has created a community service project for his Bar Mitzvah to gather books to distribute to the children of the mission as part of their Thanksgiving Giveaway. We will also be giving away children's books and stuffed animals as part of our participation in **NCJW/LA's Annual Clothing Giveaway**. Our volunteers will be helping to celebrate the holiday season at Alexandria House and on our McAlister High School partner campuses. We are looking forward to a happy and healthy holiday season and are always looking for new volunteers to join our ranks in bringing our programs into the lives of more young people.

SAVE THE DATE

Legislative Action Sub-Committee Meetings

Nov. 20, Dec. 18 and Jan. 15—6pm at Council House.
Call Maya for details 323-852-8536

Annual Clothing Giveaway ~ Call for Volunteers

Sunday, December 8, 2013, 8am-12pm
Call Chloe for details 323-852-8515

Jewish Women's Theatre

Hold Me, Heal Me, January 18 and January 25 at Council House
Call Maya for details 323-852-8536

Advocacy Roe v Wade Program

January 23, 12pm — *After Tiller* film at Council House
Call Ruth for details 323-852-8503

Women's Action Training Project

Sunday, January 26, 11am-5pm at Council House
Endangered Species: Why are the Numbers of Women Representing LA County in Elected Office Dropping and How Can We Reverse this Trend?
Call Maya for details 323-852-8536

NCJW 46th National Convention

March 6-8, 2014 — St. Louis, MO

Announcing the 2014 Annual Women's Seder

Thursday, April 17, 2014, 6:00pm — Information to follow

Women Helping Children needs volunteers for Arts & Literacy Programs for Youth

Call Rachel for details 323-852-8505

Maria Saurez, PT Bilingual Outreach Coordinator,
accepts the
Unsung Heroes Award from the
California Community Foundation



advocacy

The Advocacy Committee welcomed and invites you to join us as we make a difference through educating and advocating for National Council of Jewish Women/Los Angeles.

Our Legislative Sub-Committee is putting together petitions to take action on issues related to Domestic Violence, health care, reproductive choice and more.

Health Care, and the Affordable Health Care Act (AHCA) are being addressed through section items and panel discussions. NCJW/LA Boardmember Donna Benjamin, authored an insightful Op Ed Column on the subject of Healthcare that was published on October 4 on the Jewish Journal Website. Donna Benjamin also sat on a panel for the L.A. City Disability Advisory Board focused on Healthcare.

January 23, 2014 is a special program reaffirming the importance of *Roe v. Wade* where we will screen the exceptional documentary entitled "*After Tiller*" celebrating the work of that heroic Doctor. Our very special thanks to our Advocacy Committee member Lenore Wax, for her donation that enabled us to purchase this film.

Interested in the Advocacy Committee, or underwriting important future documentaries, please contact Ruth Williams, Director of Advocacy at 323-852-8503.

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Los Angeles Section

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The National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) is a grassroots organization of volunteers and advocates who turn progressive ideals into action. Inspired by Jewish values, NCJW strives for social justice by improving the quality of life for women, children, and families and by safeguarding individual rights and freedoms. NCJW's Los Angeles Section has been at the forefront of social change since 1909 by providing the community with programs and services. Today, NCJW/LA serves more than 19,000 individuals each year by providing almost 100,000 hours of programs and services with the support of 600 volunteers.

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